

this is the purple line coming up at the bottom and increasing to \$10 trillion.

Already today we have a \$9 trillion unfunded liability in Social Security. That means if we invested \$9 trillion today, with interest it could keep Social Security solvent for 75 years. The alternative is we continue to increase taxes on somebody, someplace, to pay promised Social Security benefits, or we cut those benefits.

Now I want to talk about what we are about to approach this week, and that is having the largest increase in entitlement programs that has been passed by this Congress in 39 years.

What happened 39 years ago? We amended the Social Security bill in 1965 to include Medicare. The original estimates of the cost of Medicare as a percent of GDP is now just a small fraction of the actual costs of Medicare. In fact, Medicare is going bankrupt. It is going broke. There is going to be less money coming into Medicare and to Social Security than what is required to pay promised benefits. So we have been doing fiscal creative accounting, using general fund money trying to keep up. But now we are adding to the costs to Medicare by adding prescription drugs.

Dr. Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at Hoover Institute. He says, "Why should seniors be singled out to be subsidized by taxpayers, except that their votes are being sought after by both parties?"

That was true in 1965. Both sides of the aisle decided they wanted to get more votes from seniors, so they amended Social Security to add the Medicare program. Now both sides of the aisle and the President are trying to get more votes from seniors, so we are adding a prescription drug program.

I have 10 grandchildren, Mr. Speaker. They are going to be saddled with the largest debt in history. I see our Pages in this Chamber. They are the generation at risk. Why should they be asked to pay for a senior drug program? The retiring seniors today are probably the wealthiest seniors we are going to ever see in history.

We are losing our manufacturing base. We are spreading ourselves so thin with more government spending that we are mounting a massive debt for our kids and our economy.

Grandparents; as you look at prescription drugs, I think you have got to start thinking about what we are saddling our kids with.

I would like to pose a question: Why should my kids, who are trying to save enough money for their kids to go to college, pay for prescription drugs for seniors?

Let me ask another question, and that is about my 10 grandkids. Why should we pass this large increase in entitlement programs, which is going to mean a huge debt for all grandkids to deal with?

What we are doing is increasing the debt of this country more rapidly than

ever before in history. It took the first 200 years of this Congress, of this Nation, to amass a \$450 billion debt, the first 200 years. And now we are having a debt increase that we are passing on to our kids that amounts to about \$450 billion per year.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12(a), rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Remember Your covenant with Your people, Lord; make us truly Your own. Instill in this Nation the promise once heard from Joshua: "Tomorrow, the Lord will perform wonders among you."

Strengthen the Members of the House of Representatives today as they address the problems, needs, and opportunities of tomorrow. With faith in You and in this Nation with its freedom, spontaneity, and resources, call us to move into the future.

Free us from the scenario of yesterday's fears and uncertainty. Fill us with vision and hope. Help us to build upon the solid rock of today's reality. With candor, civility, and creativity, guide the discussions that will reveal a plan for tomorrow.

By disposing ourselves, our energies, and our commitments to Your determinations, prepare us to be startled by wonders You alone can produce. From our feeble attempts, You piece together solutions to tomorrow's problems.

For in You, we place our trust, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 239. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care, and for other purposes.

S. 1157. An act to establish the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and for other purposes.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION REFORM ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, later this week, we will pass a prescription drug benefit for all seniors in Medicare that is affordable and voluntary. We will protect the poorest seniors by helping pay for their drug costs immediately. By using the same principles already used by private companies, we will lower drug costs for seniors by passing along to them bigger discounts from manufacturers.

We will also strengthen Medicare for future generations by providing preventive care such as cholesterol screening and initial physical exams, and chronic care management for seniors with serious and complicated illnesses.

We can only strengthen Medicare's future if we are able to ensure access to the services that seniors need today. In this Medicare bill, we increase payments to doctors and hospitals, especially in the rural communities, so that seniors can get better health services when they are needed.

For much too long, our parents and our grandparents have paid too much for their drugs. We have an opportunity now to change this, by passing a prescription drug bill for all seniors.

WAR IN IRAQ: MANUFACTURED CATASTROPHE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this administration deliberately took this Nation into a war against Iraq based on false premises. Iraq had nothing to do with 9-11, with al Qaeda's role in 9-11, with the anthrax attack on this Nation; did not represent an imminent threat to the United States, had no usable weapons of mass destruction. That is why the weapons of mass destruction cannot be found.

This deception made America less secure. It cut the United States off from

the world community. It violated the U.S. Constitution, it violated the U.N. charter, it violated the Geneva Convention; and it continues to cost, because we are now losing our men and women in combat on a regular basis. We continue to lose them. It has cost the lives of countless innocent Iraqis. It has cost the taxpayers of this Nation over \$100 billion, and it has cost tens of billions of dollars in damage to Iraq. It has strengthened religious fundamentalists in Iraq who now threaten the freedom of women in Iraq's society.

This manufactured catastrophe called "foreign policy" represents not only a failure of truth, a great credibility gap, but, more than that, America faces a crisis of legitimacy of this administration itself, which lied to the American people to get approval for a war.

ENSURE QUALITY OF CARE AND SOLVENCY OF MEDICARE

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, while the House is in the midst of debate that will improve Medicare for millions of seniors, we must ensure both the quality of care and the solvency of the Medicare system for all of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the prescription drug benefit we institute must be coupled with meaningful reforms within Medicare. We must provide meaningful prescription drug coverage and reforms to Medicare for seniors, both today and tomorrow.

APPLAUDING THE SUPREME COURT ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULINGS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Supreme Court on its rulings on the University of Michigan affirmative action cases. The rulings indicate to the entire Nation that the Supreme Court believes in the basic premise behind affirmative action: to create opportunities for minorities and to eliminate discrimination.

Affirmative action programs have been successful in increasing the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of many educational and workplace settings throughout the United States. Affirmative action has also been shown to provide a boost to the Nation's economy.

A recent study by the Educational Testing Service argued that diversity was one of the engines that drove the United States' economy. It showed that if African American and Hispanic workers were represented at colleges and universities in the same proportions as other 18- to 24-year-olds, the

United States' wealth would increase by \$231 billion a year, and annual tax revenues would increase by \$80 billion. Why? Because it gives hope to blighted and forgotten areas of our Nation, and it improves trade and commerce worldwide.

This goes to show that by promoting adequate funding for kindergarten through twelfth grade education in underserved areas and promoting diversity in higher education in the workplace, our economy will improve.

TRIBUTE TO BOB STUMP

(Mr. SHADEGG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Nation lost a distinguished public servant. Bob Stump humbly and admirably served his country and represented Arizona for nearly 60 years.

His service began as a Navy medic during World War II and continued in Arizona in the State legislature and then here in the United States House of Representatives. From his Stetson hat down to his dusty leather boots, Bob personified the independence and western congeniality of Arizona. The soft-spoken conservative was true to his beliefs and always represented his constituents with integrity and determination.

Like so many courageous young men of his time, Bob enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16, too young to legally do so, in the midst of the second world war. He was elected to Congress in 1976 and, drawing on his military experience, Bob established himself as the preeminent champion for active military personnel and veterans.

His insight and knowledge on issues landed him the chairmanship of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs in 1995, and then in 2000, the chairmanship of the House Committee on Armed Services. Even still, he never let the power go to his head. He was one of the few Congressmen, indeed probably the only committee chairman, to personally answer his office telephone.

I looked to Bob Stump on so many issues. His advice was always thoughtful, solid, and consistent. He was the dean of our delegation, and I will sorely miss his leadership and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 25 years, he served this body with dignity and earned the admiration of not only myself, but of every Member of this House. He possessed the unwavering reliability and good judgment not commonly found in the politics of today.

Bob remains with us in spirit as a model of devoted service to Arizona and the Nation. He is and always will be missed.

HOUSE TO SPEND \$400 BILLION FOR FLAWED PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, how can you spend \$400 billion and not provide a decent Medicare prescription drug benefit? Well, it is an excellent question, but the Republicans have come up with a formula.

First, you underwrite the profits of the private insurance industry. Yes, there will be subsidies to the private insurance industry in this bill, trying to drive people out of Medicare; and you do that because they lost a bunch of money on crummy investments, and we have to help out their bottom line. Well, we can understand that; they are big campaign contributors.

Secondly, how else? Well, overall, number one, do nothing about the extortion it costs to prescription drugs in the United States. Do not allow the imports or the reimportation of American-manufactured drugs. Do not allow the people on Medicare to be organized into a group to drive down the price of these prescription drugs. No. Because actually, the pharmaceutical industry are bigger campaign contributors to the Republicans than the insurance industry. So we are going to spend \$400 billion to provide a benefit nobody understands that is going to be pretty parsimonious.

We could do better. We could take on the pharmaceutical industry, and we can forget about giving a subsidy to the private insurance industry; and for \$400 billion, we could provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit that seniors would enjoy and it would help with their health. But that is not where the majority is going in this House of Representatives.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BURDENS FUTURE GENERATIONS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, adding prescription drugs to Medicare is one of the most unfair burdens that Congress and the President have placed on future generations in a long, long time.

I have 10 grandkids and now, for a Medicare program that is already broke, insolvent Congress is adding benefits. We are reaching into the general fund to pay for Medicare. Medicare and Social Security are going to be insolvent within the next 10 to 14 years.

Yet we are adding a new prescription drug burden to Medicare, moving into socialized medicine, and making my kids and 10 grandkids and everybody else's responsible to pay for seniors' drug prescriptions.

Actually, today's retiring seniors are probably the most wealthy and better off than any generation of Americans. Yet we are placing a burden on our kids, and young workers who are trying to save money to send their kids to college. We are placing a huge burden on my grandkids to pay off the debt. We are actually borrowing the money,